




HIGHWATER
PRESS


PORTAGE &
MAIN PRESS

RIGHTS
CATALOGUE
FALL 2023 | 2024

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WE NEED EVERYONE

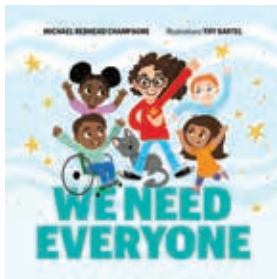
by Michael Redhead Champagne
illustrated by Tiff Bartel

Juvenile Fiction (ages 6–8)

9 x 9 in. • 40 pages

Rights Held: World

Themes: Social activism, Community involvement



This welcoming call to action will inspire young readers to contribute to their communities by recognizing their own gifts and talents.

We Need Everyone empowers children to identify their gifts and use them to overcome challenges, achieve goals, and strengthen communities. Inspiring and uplifting, this interactive picture book celebrates diverse cultures, perspectives, and abilities through playful illustrations.

Michael Redhead Champagne, a *Time Magazine* Next Generation Leader (2015), is an Inineu public speaker, writer, award-winning community advocate, and on-screen personality.

Tiff Bartel is an award-winning Viet-Canadian multimedia artist. Her body of work includes illustration, filmmaking, design, animation, music, sculpture, and more.



HEART BERRY BLING

by Jenny Kay Dupuis

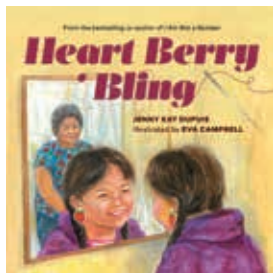
illustrated by Eva Campbell

Juvenile Fiction (ages 6–8)

9 x 9 in. • 48 pages

Rights Held: World

Themes: Family, Cultural connections,
Indigenous contemporary life



A touching story about perseverance, family, and the tradition of beading from the bestselling co-author of *I Am Not a Number*.

On a visit to her granny, Maggie learns about perseverance through her first beading project. As they work, Granny shares how beading helped her stay connected to her Anishinaabe culture when she lost her Indian status.

A beautifully written and illustrated story that seamlessly weaves connection to family, history, culture, and joy.

—Monique Gray Smith mistikwashkikhs, *My Heart Fills With Happiness*

Jenny Kay Dupuis

is a sought-after public speaker, bestselling author, educator, and accomplished artist.

Eva Campbell is an award-winning artist, illustrator, and teacher. Her work has been exhibited around the world.



MOTHERS OF XSAN

by Hetxw'ims Gyetxw (Brett D. Huson)

illustrated by Natasha Donovan

Juvenile Nonfiction (ages 9–12)

6.5 x 10 in. • 32 pages

Rights Held: World

Themes: Life cycles, Family, Ecosystems



Nuture young scientists with the award-winning Mothers of Xsan series.

Discover the important role of each mother as she prepares her young to survive on their own in these colourful picture books for young readers.

IN THE SERIES

THE SOCKEYE MOTHER

THE GRIZZLY MOTHER

THE EAGLE MOTHER

THE FROG MOTHER

THE WOLF MOTHER

THE RAVEN MOTHER

THE BEE MOTHER



Huson eloquently conveys the fragile interconnectedness of the natural world and the moral imperative to protect it.

—Publishers Weekly, ★review

WE DREAM MEDICINE DREAMS

written and illustrated by Lisa Boivin

Juvenile Fiction (ages 6–8)

9 x 9 in. • 48 pages

Rights Held: World

Themes: Grief, Death of a grandparent



A gentle story about life and death that will touch the hearts of children and adults alike.

When a little girl dreams about a bear, her grandfather explains how we connect with the knowledge of our ancestors through dreams. Bear, Hawk, Caribou, and Wolf all have teachings to share to help us live a good life. But when Grampa gets sick and falls into a coma, the little girl must lean on his teachings as she learns to say goodbye.

Lisa Boivin, PhD, is a member of the Deninu Kue First Nation and is an interdisciplinary artist and healthcare educator working to bridge gaps between medical ethics and aspects of Indigenous cultures and worldviews.



SK'AD'A STORIES SERIES

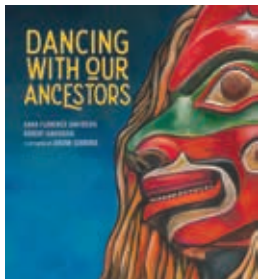
by Sara Florence Davidson and Robert Davidson
illustrated by Janine Gibbons

Juvenile Fiction (ages 6–8)

8.125 x 9 in. • 40 pages

Rights Held: World

Themes: Intergenerational knowledge,
Family, Culture, Land-based learning



In these tender picture books, readers are transported into special childhood memories.

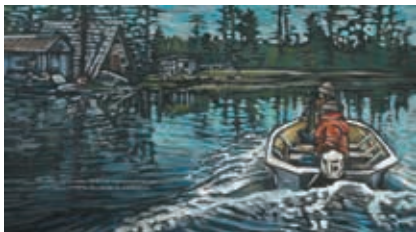
Written by the creators of *Potlatch as Pedagogy*, this four-book series for children brings the Sk'ad'a principles of learning to life through the art of Janine Gibbons. Follow along as Haida children learn important life lessons from their Elders through real-life situations, cultural expressions, and experiences out on the land.

Sara Florence Davidson

is a Haida/Settler assistant professor at Simon Fraser University.

Robert Davidson, an Officer of the Order of Canada, is one of the most respected and important contemporary artists in Canada.

Janine Gibbons is a Haida multidisciplinary artist and award-winning illustrator.



IN THE SERIES

JIGGING FOR HALIBUT WITH TSINII
LEARNING TO CARVE ARGILLITE
RETURNING TO THE YAKOUN RIVER
DANCING WITH OUR ANCESTORS

THE SIX SEASONS OF THE ASINISKAW ÎTHINIWAK

by William Dumas

illustrated by Leonard Paul and Rhian Brynjolson

Juvenile Fiction (ages 9–12)

6 x 9 in.

Rights Held: World

Themes: Family, Coming of age, Cultural traditions



Residents of South Indian Lake, Manitoba, recovered an ancestor, a 25-year-old Rocky Cree woman who lived 350 years ago. Honouring this gift from the past, The Six Seasons of the Asiniskaw Îthiniwak series tells the stories of the Rocky Cree and their life on their land. Set in the 1600s, these stories centre Indigenous knowledge and seek to teach young people about the old ways.



The old people, they grew up listening to stories. And so, every night, when the old people were done their evening prayers, they would sit and they would tell us stories too.

IN THE SERIES

PĪSIM FINDS HER MISKANAW

60 pages

AMŌ'S SAPOTAWAN

60 pages

THE GIFT OF THE LITTLE PEOPLE

48 pages

—William Dumas, from
The Gift of the Little People



WHEN WE WERE ALONE

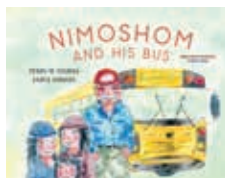
by David A. Robertson

illustrated by Julie Flett

7.5 x 8.5 in. • 24 pages

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Japanese, French, German,
Spanish Language USA, Philippines,
Mexico



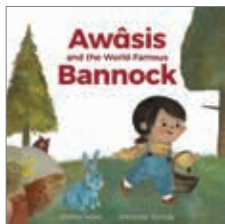
NIMOSHOM AND HIS BUS

by Penny M. Thomas

illustrated by Karen Hibbard

9.5 x 7.5 in. • 32 pages

Rights Held: World



AWÂSIS AND THE WORLD-FAMOUS BANNOCK

by Dallas Hunt

illustrated by Amanda Strong

9 x 9 in. • 24 pages

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: French, North America



STAND LIKE A CEDAR

by Nicola I. Campbell

illustrated by Carrielynn Victor

9 x 9 in. • 36 pages

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: French, North America

THE BREAKOUT CHRONICLES

by David A. Robertson

Juvenile Fiction (ages 9–12)

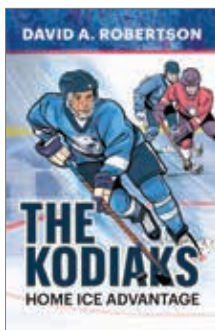
5.25 x 8 in. • 184 pages

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: French, World

Themes: Bullying, Prejudice and racism,

Sports culture



THE KODIAKS

Home Ice Advantage

Hockey fans will love this action-packed middle grade novel about teamwork, overcoming adversity, and being proud of who you are and where you come from.

Everything is changing for 11-year-old Alex Robinson. After his father accepts a new job, Alex and his family move from their community to the city. For the first time in his life, he doesn't fit in. His fellow students don't understand Indigenous culture. Even a simple show of respect to his teacher gets him in trouble.

David A. Robertson is a two-time winner of the Governor General's Literary Award, has won the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, as well as the Writer's Union of Canada Freedom to Read award.

A fun read filled with a ton of action...David expertly weaves entertainment and humour with life lessons—and suggestions for making the world a better place.

—Kevin Sylvester, Author/Illustrator
of *The Hockey Super-Six*

HOPELESS IN HOPE

by Wanda John-Kehewin

YA Fiction (ages 12–18)

5.5 x 8.25 in. • 216 pages

Rights Held: World

Themes: Substance use,

Child in care, Hope



Among USBBY's Outstanding International Books, this is a heartbreaking and humorous young adult story of a Cree teenage girl.

For Eva Brown, life feels lonely and small. Her mother, Shirley, drinks and yells all the time. She's the target of the popular mean girl, and her only friend doesn't want to talk to her anymore. All of it would be unbearable if it weren't for her cat, Toofie, her beloved nohkum, and her writing, which no one will ever see.

With Nohkum in the hospital, Eva's mother struggles to keep things together and loses custody of Eva and her little brother. As Eva tries to adjust to living in a group home, can she find forgiveness for her mother within the pages of an old diary?

Wanda John-Kehewin is a Cree writer who uses her work to understand and respond to the near destruction of First Nations cultures, languages, and traditions.

A tender and even humorous coming-of-age story...a resonant story of healing, belonging, and persisting despite the odds.

—Kirkus Reviews

A GIRL CALLED ECHO OMNIBUS

by Katherena Vermette

illustrated by Scott B. Henderson

colour by Donovan Yaciuk

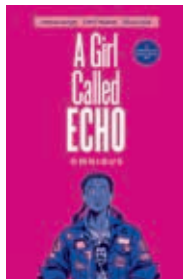
Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 12–18)

6.5 x 10 in. • 224 pages

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: French World

Themes: Poverty, Displacement, Coming of age



Experience Echo's entire time-travelling adventure in this omnibus* of award-winning author katherena vermette's best-selling series.

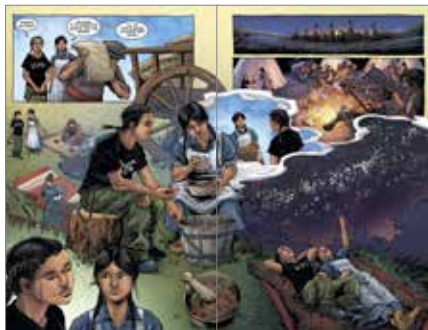
The *A Girl Called Echo* series of graphic novels tells a story about identity, isolation, and finding strength and hope through family. Featuring compelling illustrations and a female main character, the series follows Echo as she discovers her people's history first-hand, gains new perspectives about where she came from, and imagines what the future might hold.

***Includes** *Pemmican*

Wars, Red River Resistance, Northwest Resistance, and Road Allowance Era

katherena vermette

is a Governor General's Award-winning Métis writer from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.



ADVENTURES OF THE PUGULATMU'J

by Brandon Mitchell

illustrated by Veronika Barinova

Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 6–8)

5.5 x 8 in.

Rights Held: World

Themes: Adventure, Overcoming fear



GIJU'S GIFT Vol. 1

88 pages

Join Mali and Puug as they race to keep one step ahead of an ancient giant in the first volume of this graphic novel series.

A beautiful adventure story that comes together through the art and the words.

A strong pick for middle-grade readers.

—Booklist

—Jury for the 2022 VLA Graphic Novel Diversity Award

From Listuguj, Quebec, **Brandon Mitchell** is the founder of Birch Bark Comics and creator of the Sacred Circles comic series which draws on his Mi'kmaq heritage.

Veronika Barinova is an illustrator who's work focuses on creating engaging characters and immersive worlds for readers.



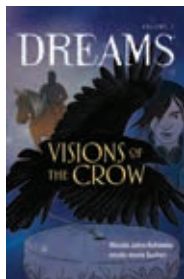
COMING SPRING 2025

THE SEARCH FOR GLOOSCAP Vol. 2

DREAMS

by Wanda John-Kehewin
illustrated by nicole marie burton

Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 12–18)
6.5 x 10 in.
Rights Held: World
Themes: Identity, Coming of age, Substance abuse



VISIONS OF THE CROW

Vol. 1

80 pages

**A new girl at school.
A mysterious crow.
Weird visions he
can't explain. Grade
12 just got a lot more
complicated for
Damon Quinn...**



Seized by waking dreams, Damon is forced to look within himself, mend the bond with his mother, and rely on new friends to find the answers he so desperately needs. Travelling through time and space, Damon will have to go back before he can move forward.

nicole marie burton is a comics artist and children's book illustrator. nicole's work focuses on comics with social justice themes, including topics from Canadian history to the science of climate change.

*A graphic novel recommended
for teens.*

—School Library Journal

COMING SUMMER 2025
VISIONS FROM THE FIRE Vol. 2

THE SPIRIT OF DENENDEH

by Richard Van Camp

illustrated by Scott B. Henderson

colour by Donovan Yaciuk

Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 12–18)

6.5 x 10 in.

Rights Held: World

Themes: Action adventure, Culture, Samurai,

Coming of age, Substance abuse, Recovery,

Reparations



An Eisner Award-nominated story, *The Spirit of Denendeh* series explores cultural connection as a path to redemption, community, and healing. Grounded in Tłıchǫ Dene culture and history, these interconnected stories take place in the author's hometown in northern Canada.



Richard Van Camp is the author of more than 25 books including *The Lesser Blessed* (also a feature film).

Scott B. Henderson is the artist for AIYLA Honour Book *Fire Starters* and Joe Shuster Awards nominees *This Place: 150 Years Retold*.

IN THE SERIES

A BLANKET OF BUTTERFLIES Vol. 1

56 pages

AS I ENFOLD YOU IN PETALS Vol. 2

72 pages

Urgent, contemporary storytelling, memorably enlivened by Henderson's meticulous, realistic art.

—Booklist

LITTLE BY LITTLE

You Can Change the World

by Sonya Ballantyne

illustrated by Rhael McGregor

lettered by Toben Racicot

Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 9–12)

6.5 x 10 in. • 56 pages

Rights Held: World

Themes: Social justice, Helping others, Finding your voice



Little by Little is a beautifully illustrated graphic novel about how one person can spark change and inspire others.

At a youth conference, Michael sees a chance to help people. But the speaker on stage is saying things about his community that aren't true! Will Michael be brave enough to use his voice to stand up for what he knows is right?

Based on a true story.



Sonya Ballantyne is a Swampy Cree writer, filmmaker, and speaker. She has also written for television, such as APTN's *Taken* and the children's show *Wolf-Joe*.

Rhael McGregor is a Queer Two-Spirit/non-binary artist of both Métis and settler heritage working in comics and animation.

BETWEEN THE PIPES

by Albert McLeod

with Sonya Ballantyne and Elaine Mordoch

illustrated by Alice RL

lettered by Sibal Kielamel

Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 12–18)

6.5 x 10 in. • 56 pages

Rights Held: World

Themes: Two-Spirit, Sports culture, Mental health



In this engrossing graphic novel, teen hockey player Chase learns more about himself and his identity in the face of prejudice and homophobia.

Chase's identity should be simple. He's the goalie for his hockey team. He's Kookum's grandchild. He's a boy. He should like girls. But it's not that easy. With the help of an Elder, and a Two-Spirit mentor, can Chase learn to be proud of who he is?

This graphic novel explores toxic masculinity through the experiences of an Indigenous teen.

Albert McLeod has over thirty years of experience as a human rights activist and works as a consultant specializing in Indigenous peoples, 2Spirit history and identity, cultural reclamation, and cross-cultural training.



THE REZ DOCTOR

by Gitz Crazyboy

illustrated by Veronika Barinova

colour by Azby Whitecalf

lettered by Toben Racicot

Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 12–18)

6.5 x 10 in. • 64 pages

Rights Held: World

Themes: Systematic racism, Coming of age,
Role models



In this uplifting story, a young Indigenous man overcomes hardship to fulfill his dream of becoming a doctor.

Ryan Fox dreams of becoming a doctor. But when university takes him away from the support of his family and Siksikaitsitapi community, his grades start to slip, his bills pile up, and getting into med school feels impossible. And now his beloved uncle is in jail. Can Ryan regain his footing to walk the path he saw so clearly as a young boy?



This fictional story is based on the lived experiences of an Indigenous doctor.

Gitz Crazyboy is a Siksikaitsitapi (Blackfoot) and Dene father, and activist. He has spent much of his life learning and living with Indigenous Nations around the world and is passionate about youth education.

THE RECKONER RISES

by David A. Robertson

illustrated by Scott B. Henderson

colour by Donovan Yaciuk

Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 12–18)

6.5 x 10 in. • 72 pages

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: French (NA)

Themes: Female superhero, Horror and sci fi



Acclaimed writer David A. Robertson delivers suspense, adventure, and humour in this stunningly illustrated graphic novel continuation of The Reckoner trilogy.

Cole and Eva are reunited once more. A new terror looms as Mihko

Laboratories's latest human experiments are about to be unleashed. With Brady potentially out of commission, Cole and Eva may be outnumbered. Things look grim until a new discovery changes everything: God Flare. Will it be enough to help them in the coming battle with Mihko?



IN THE SERIES

BREAKDOWN Vol. 1

VERSION CONTROL Vol. 2

GOD FLARE Vol. 3

Beautifully navigates friendship and action with stunning illustrations and a superhero heart tinged with horror. You'll be desperate for volume three.

—Chip Zdarsky, DC Comics
and Marvel Comics

SURVIVING THE CITY

by Tasha Spillett

illustrated by Natasha Donovan

lettering by Scott B. Henderson

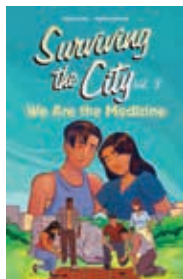
Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 12–18)

6.5 x 10 in.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Saami Language Norway

Themes: Friendship, Social justice, Coming of age



From New York Times–bestselling author Tasha Spillett comes the compelling series, *Surviving the City*.

Miikwan and Dez are best friends. Together, the teens navigate the challenges of growing up Indigenous in an urban landscape. The *Surviving the City* three-volume series follows these best friends as they struggle with love, loss, belonging, identity, and sexuality.



[A] beautiful story about friendship and the importance of love and acceptance within communities.

—YALSA's The Hub

IN THE SERIES

SURVIVING THE CITY Vol. 1

56 pages

FROM THE ROOTS UP Vol. 2

64 pages

WE ARE THE MEDICINE Vol. 3

64 pages

LITTLE MOONS

by Jen Storm

illustrated by Ryan Howe

lettered by Nickolej Villiger

colour by Alice RL

Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 12–18)

6.5 x 10 in. • 64 pages

Rights Held: World

Themes: Grief, Cultural traditions, MMIWG2S

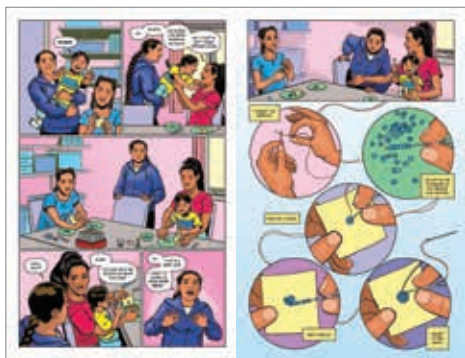


In this moving graphic novel, thirteen-year-old Reanna grieves the loss of her missing older sister.

It's been a year since Reanna's sister, Chelsea, went missing on her way home from school. Without any idea of what happened, Reanna and her family struggle to find closure. She feels lonely, abandoned... but she is not alone.

There are little moons everywhere.

Jen Storm is an Ojibwe writer. *Fire Starters* (AIYLA Honor Book) was her first graphic novel.





THIS PLACE

150 Years Retold

7 x 10 in. • 296 pages

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: German



SUGAR FALLS

A Residential School Story

10th Anniversary Edition

by David A. Robertson

illustrated by Scott B. Henderson

6.5 x 10 in. • 48 pages

Rights Sold: French (NA)



7 GENERATIONS

A Plains Cree Saga

by David A. Robertson

illustrated by Scott B. Henderson

6.5 x 10 in. • 136 pages

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: French

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du Canada

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Government
of Canada

Canada

Manitoba





Back cover art by Rhael McGregor from *Little by Little*



We acknowledge that our offices are located on Treaty 1 Territory, on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabeg, Inninewak (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dakota, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.